

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017

EDITORIAL

Having struggled to complete this newsletter during February, I have finally admitted defeat and labelled it March. I'll try and get back on track and issue the next one in June. Subscriptions will be due on 1st April, and I will be sending out renewal notices soon. Unfortunately the fees we pay to England Athletics have gone up again, and we have had to increase our subs (see article below). Note that members who have joined the club since 1st January 2017 will not have to renew until April 2018.

WE MUST HAVE WON SOMETHING!



Lee Mansfield sent me this photograph with the comment “We must have won something!” He couldn’t be sure what and when though. It was the combination of Joe Boal’s prodigious memory and the Harriers archive that solved the mystery. This was the fourth season of the Today’s Runner League (nowadays known as the Derby Runner League, but back then one of a number of local leagues sponsored by Today’s Runner magazine) in 1990-1991. The last race of the season had just been held at Coalville, Joe had won the men’s championship and our men’s team had won the league title. The four standing Harriers are Kevin Gordon, Lee Mansfield, Steve Leach and Mick Marshall, while kneeling in front are Joe Boal and Jon Leek. Visible to the left are our ladies’ team on the day, Audrey Broadhurst and Alison Read. Looking back at that season’s results, a remarkable feature is that the average number of Harriers in each race was 29.

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017



As a postscript, a Harriers team went on to represent the Leicestershire/Derbyshire league in the national final at Luton, and finished seventh. Steve Leach and John Read achieved lasting fame however, as their photograph was chosen to adorn the cover of the March 1993 edition of the magazine. That's Steve in front, with John three places behind him.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Robin and Amanda Carter on the birth of baby George on January 6th, a brother for Emelie.

AGM

A reminder that the AGM will be held in the Refreshment Room (near the tennis courts at the Rolls-Royce Leisure site) on Wednesday 15th March at 5pm; this is a day later than originally announced. All welcome.

NB the weekly club run will not take place on this date.

DIARY DATES

Fri 24th March Dark Night 10k National Stone Centre Wirksworth 7.30pm

Sun 14th May Sinfin Classic 10k, Elvaston Country Park, 10.30am

Sun 4th June Ramathon Half Marathon

DATES FOR THIS SEASON'S CLUB EVENTS

Broome Cup	Wednesday 26 th April
Piggs Trophy 10k	Wednesday 9 th August
Handicap	Wednesday 13 th September

Page 2 of 8

Editor: **Bill Southgate.** billsouthgate337@btinternet.com. **Rolls-Royce Harriers**
March 2017

PIGGS TROPHY 10K – VACANCY FOR RACE DIRECTOR

The Committee has received the following email from Ian Page, notifying us of his intention to stand down as race director of what is now a very successful event:

“As you are probably aware, I’ve been the Piggs Trophy Race Director since around 2002. The event has certainly developed over the last 14 years or so, and seems to be a well-established race on the local calendar.

After some soul searching and in-depth consideration, I have decided that 2017 is the year to hand over the reins to someone else.

There are a couple of reasons for this, firstly a practical one, in that we may well be away on hols next August as it is Jane’s “next significant birthday” (yes, 39 again!), and mine a few weeks later.

Secondly, and more importantly, I feel that I’ve done as much as I can with the event, but with a new and enthusiastic Race Director, there may well be further potential to be gained and refinements to be made, for example the introduction of online entries. I think the organisation of the Colin Potter event is very slick, and a new Race Director could do worse than seek some advice from the organisers on possible refinements. I usually start organising the race around Easter / early April each year.

I will provide a timetable of actions (much like the one I provided to you), which would set out the necessary info and contacts, and would be happy to clarify any details etc for a new Race Director.

Anyway, I wanted to let you and the Committee know as early as possible so that the 2017 event can proceed as smoothly as possible, under a new Race Director. The planned race date is Wed 9th August 2017.”

The new race director does not have to be a member of the committee, but would, of course, receive a lot of help from committee members.

Please contact Gillian Whiteside (gillian.whiteside@rolls-royce.com) if you would like to give it a go.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE SEASON 2017-2018

The new membership year starts on 1st April, and once again England Athletics have increased the annual fee for affiliated runners by £1, from £13 to £14. In addition to this, we have to pay a club affiliation fee of £100 (which is unchanged). Having held our club subscriptions for the last four years, despite annual increases from EA, we have reached the point where we need to pass on the increase, so from April the full first claim membership fee will be £16.

The committee has also decided that retired members who wish to be registered for competition should pay the England Athletics affiliation fee of £14. Until now the subscription for retirees has been half the full membership fee (under 65) or free (65 and over).

To summarise, the renewal fees for 2017-2018 will be as follows:

First claim members:

At work £16

Retired but registered for competition £14

Retired under 65, not registered for competition £8

Retired 65 and over, not registered for competition Free

Second claim members:

At work £10

Retired under 65 £5

Retired 65 and over Free

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017





R-R HARRIERS CHAMPIONSHIP 2016-2017




POSITIONS AT 26 FEBRUARY 2017

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
1	KAROLINA KUCHARAK	171	34	CLIVE BARRACLOUGH	16
2	ANDY WARD	148	35	BEN KIRBY	12
3	ANDY DODSLEY	138	36	NEAL FELLOWS	10
4	MARK FOWELL	122	37=	KIERAN CONNALLY	5
5	ANDY NORMAN	117		CLIFF COOPER	5
6=	IAN LAMBERT	115		TONY EDWARDS	5
	STEVE WAKEFIELD	115		WENDY LAWRENCE	5
8	ROBIN CARTER	100		BRIAN NICHOLLS	5
9	GILLIAN WHITESIDE	88		IAN PAGE	5
10	DARREN POTTER	83		PAULA PARKIN	5
11	BOB WILSON	81		ALBERT PEPPER	5
12=	ROB GOULDS	70		BILL SOUTHGATE	5
	JON LEEK	70			
14	LINDSAY CUTHBERTSON	64			
15	NICOLA POTTER	63			
16=	RUSSELL PARKIN	61			
	CHRIS SMITH	61			
18	NEIL BARNES	47			
19=	LEE GRIFFITHS	46			
	JON KINDER	46			
	JOHN TAYLOR	46			
22	BEN HALL	44			
23	DEAN SMITH	42			
24	MARK HULANDS	41			
25	HELEN HILDRED	32			
26	ADAM CATCHPOLE	30			
27=	PADDY CONNALLY	22			
	ALAN ECCLESTON	22			
	LISA FILDES	22			
	TONY HOGAN	22			
31	AMANDA CARTER	20			
32	TRISTAN COOPER	19			
33	ANDREW DEIGHTON	18			

Colour Codes

(based on age at start of season (14 September 2016))

	Junior (under 18)
	Senior men
	Over 40 men
	Over 50 men

	Over 60 men
	Over 70 men
	Ladies (all age categories)

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

The committee has decided on a slight change to the scoring system for next season, affecting the winter cross-country leagues. At present points are awarded for the best three finishes out of four North Midland League races, and the best three finishes out of seven Derby Runner League races. From next season, the North Midlands League scoring will remain the same, but the Derby Runner League scoring will increase to the best four finishes out of seven.

Jon Leek is keen to encourage more participation in the winter cross-country leagues, and he proposed an increase in the number of points available. However, the committee doesn't want to skew the balance between cross-country, road races and track races too much, and an analysis of total points awarded in the last few seasons shows a reasonably even distribution across the three disciplines, so the modest increase outlined above was agreed on. It was pointed out that there were only five races per season in the equivalent Today's Runner League when the scoring system was drawn up.

RUNNINGWITHDAVID

David Denton's races continue through March, April and May:

Sunday 16 April at 11am : **Peat Pit Woods Fell Races** : Bear Inn, Alderwasley

Wednesday 19 April : **Derby Midweek Races**

Monday 1 May at 11.30am : **Southwell 5km Trail Race** : Final Whistle pub, Station Rd, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Sunday 7 May at 11am : **Peat Pit Wood Fell Races**

Friday 26 to Monday 29 May – various times : **Annual Tour of the Derwent Valley**

AWARDS NIGHT

The annual awards night was held at the Bless in Chapel Street, Derby, on 25th February. Harriers old and not so old got together to catch up and exchange tall stories, and Jon and Cath Leek did a splendid job of organisation and catering – thanks to you both. Trophies were awarded (or not awarded, in the absence of a couple of recipients and one of the trophies – sorry Karolina!) to:

Club champion Chris Clarke

Ladies' champion Lindsay Cuthbertson

Ladies' O35 champion Karolina Kucharek

Ladies' O45 champion Gillian Whiteside

Men's champion Robin Carter

Men's O40 champion Andy Dodsley

Men's O50 champion Russell Parkin

Men's O60 champion Andy Ward

Two special awards followed. Let Jon Leek explain the first of them:

"I'd like to pay tribute to a man who has been the leading light in our long distance or 'Ultra' running section for many years....Jon Kinder. His achievements include winning the Thames Ring 250 in just under 60 hours, winning the 140 mile long Grand Union Canal race, in which he has competed many times, and completing a BGR in under 24 hours among many others. Unfortunately for Jon, none of the long distance events qualify for championship points which is why he has never featured in

Page 5 of 8

Editor: **Bill Southgate.** billsouthgate337@btinternet.com. **Rolls-Royce Harriers**
March 2017

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017

the annual club awards. In February 2016 he broke the Guinness World record for running the farthest distance on a treadmill over a period of 12 hours....132.90km. In the process Jon raised a great deal of money for the Rainbows Hospice for terminally ill children." In recognition of this achievement Jon L presented Jon K with a commemorative plaque.

JK himself then made a special award to our club captain Robin Carter, who has done so much to encourage participation in fell-running events, and the Bob Graham Round (BGR) in particular.

Jon pointed out that when Robin joined the Harriers in 2009, the club's most recent successful BGR attempt had been in 1995, and that generation of runners had long since moved on or hung up their fell-running shoes. Attempts on the round by Jon Kinder 2008 and Jon Leek in 2009 had failed, and it was feared that with the chain of experience broken, the challenge was all but impossible.

Jon continued: "When Robin joined the club his fell running ability and knowledge of the Lakeland fells was plain to see and his enthusiasm was infectious. With this new injection of talent in the club, Jon Leek decided to have another attempt at the round in May 2010, with a massive amount of help from Robin and other team supporters he succeeded in 23:32. In August of the same year Robin then did his own round in 23:14 but due to the rushed preparations did not have it corroborated." Success then followed success, and Keith Covell, Mark Fowell, Amanda Carter, Jon Kinder, Andy Swift and Matt Tomlinson all completed the round in the next few years.

JK concluded: "In all of the above rounds Robin has taken on the mantle of team leader, often doing much of the driving from our base in Derby and ensuring that the logistical support is just right before heading off to lead over the difficult night time navigation stages, in all cases leading at least 3 stages of the round. Without Robin's support the Rolls-Royce Harriers would not have enjoyed this run of 100% success over the last 6 years and I'm confident the Harriers will enjoy more successful years to come now that we have re-established our links with this historical challenge."

Footnote: the Bob Graham Round is a 42-peak, 66-mile tour of the Lake District which has to be completed in 24 hours to be recognised by the Bob Graham Club. For the record, Andy Swift's time exceeded the limit, but with a good deal of cajoling from Robin and others, he was persuaded to complete the circuit.

And finally, the retiring Whingers champion Jon Leek announced the name of his successor. In true Harriers tradition, Jon described some of the most meritorious whinges of the past year, and gave us two dictionary definitions of a whinge, including the adjectives "peevish", "annoying" and "persistent"and the whinger was....Andy Ward. That made two trophies in one night – he couldn't complain!

MEETING WITH R-R LEISURE

Some members of the Harriers have expressed unease in recent years about the need to be a member of Rolls-Royce Leisure in order to be a club member, and have asked the

Page 6 of 8

Editor: Bill Southgate. billsouthgate337@btinternet.com. **Rolls-Royce Harriers**
March 2017

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017

questions “do we get value for money?” and “are potential new members being put off by the extra expenditure?” The loss of access to the Sports Hall changing rooms and the fact that access to the Welfare Pavilion is now open to all were cited as examples of reductions in value. Another is the loss of the subsidy that R-R Welfare used to provide for use of the Moorways track.

A group of committee members, including Jon Leek, Gillian Whiteside and Bob Wilson have been doing some valuable research into aspects of this, such as how other sections are treated, and how many Harriers are members of other sections, and have consulted the Rolls-Royce team responsible for trademarks and branding about the use of the company name in our club name should we wish to part company with RRL (we couldn't do so).

Our concerns were put to R-R Leisure, and Gillian had a meeting with Phil Pickering for a preliminary discussion, at which she made a proposal that the club made a one-off payment to RRL instead of insisting on individual membership. Phil requested more information, including our accounts and a breakdown of our membership into employees, ex-employees, spouses and outsiders. A meeting was arranged to discuss the issues, with Colin Prior and Phil Pickering representing RRL, and Gillian, Jon and myself representing the Harriers. Afterwards Phil emailed a summary of the meeting, including RRL's response to our concerns. In view of its importance, I'm quoting it in full:

“Good meeting today and thanks for your agreement to work with us to keep the RR Harriers going for a bit longer if not another 100 years! We understand your concerns regarding membership and your demographics which show a huge change over the last 25 years or so. Your problems include: difficulty in attracting new members, difficulty in staging profitable events, a fee structure that doesn't covered the cost of AAA membership.

We are unable to drop the requirement for RR leisure membership. This is a fundamental part of our constitution and as you know we want everyone at RR to be members first and foremost. We sympathise with you re marketing yourself to new graduates, etc and are happy to help your promotions wherever possible. We'll certainly get our websites corrected and can easily include a feature on the harriers when requested.

The difficulties holding events from the Roundhouse along with the disruption caused by Infinity Way are hopefully now over and the new temporary changing rooms are available. We have plenty of other changing facilities around the pavilion if you'd prefer to run events from the Refreshment room side. Please keep in touch with Colin and the RR leisure team so we can help to get your in-house events back to normal and making a better contribution.

We'd like to see your prize giving and other social events held in the Pavilion or Refreshment Room. Food and drinks are available any evening except Monday. Again, please work with Colin and the team so we can best accommodate your needs.

Recognising your current financial problems we are happy to support the cost of hiring the Moorways track for the next 2 years or so (£350 pa) and review with you

Page 7 of 8

Rolls-Royce Harriers

Newsletter

March 2017

progress towards improving your balances over the period. I note you've already provided Colin with your bank details. Your membership fee structure looks to need revising as your subsidy of AAA fees has grown to exceed your income (£13 pa against £15pa full fee or £7.50pa concessionary fee!). Your promotion should probably highlight this contribution (plus the £100 club fee) and also recognise the Moorways track availability (worth ~£3.50/member currently).

For the long term, please keep us posted on the status of the running track. Perhaps we should consider re-establishing a track at RR (probably far too expensive to make sense)."

KILIMANJAIRO

Hot news is that father and son Harriers Ray and Dave Thompson have just come back from trekking up Kilimanjairo. Ray has promised me an account for the next newsletter. Some years ago Ray became a "compleater" and a "furthest", having bagged all the Munros (Scottish peaks above 3,000 feet), and similar peaks in England, Wales and Ireland, but Kilimanjairo, at 19,340 feet, is one hell of a Munro!

WEEKLY CLUB RUN

Just a reminder that the club runs start from the Refreshment Room changing rooms (adjacent to the Pavilion) at 5pm every Wednesday. The 4 to 5 mile runs are taken at a very leisurely pace, and all Harriers, and prospective Harriers, are welcome to join in. More details from Jon Leek (jon.leek@rolls-royce.com), Gillian Whiteside (gillian.whiteside@rolls-royce.com) or Richard Scott (richard.scott2@rolls-royce.com).

CLUB KIT

If you require a new vest, shorts etc, please contact Jon Leek who is the vendor of all these items, at competitive prices.

Vests : £13.00	Shorts : £10.00
Mens Sizes : S(36in) M(38in) L(40in) XL(42in)	Mens Sizes : S(30in) M(32in) L(34in)
Ladies Sizes : S(34in) M(36in) L(38in)	Ladies Sizes : S(28in) M(30in) L(32in)

Jon is continuing to offer our new and distinctive line in kit, with a fine-looking range of men's and ladies' hoodies and fleeces in small, medium and large sizes. Colour is royal blue, and the Harriers logo is either stencilled on (hoodies) or embroidered on (fleeces). If you are interested, have a look on our website under "About Us" and "Kit".

Phone Jon Leek on 44005